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# Top Aides Called Into Conference

## Buildup of Forces, Strategic Moves Being Considered

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A White House review of the entire range of American activities in the Vietnamese conflict began yesterday as a prelude to a decision to multiply the number of American troops there.

President Johnson and his chief military, diplomatic and intelligence advisers will spend several days in what White House Press Secretary Bill D. Moyers called "a thorough and penetrating review" of the situation in South Viet-Nam.

### Strategy Discussed

More than the anticipated expansion in the commitment of American forces to South Viet-Nam, or the expected call-up of military reserves and an enlarged military draft, is at stake.

In addition to sending some tens of thousands of more troops to try to reverse an admittedly "deteriorating" military situation, the Administration is deliberating on strategy for the use of the troops in South Viet-Nam, and future air operations against North Viet-Nam.

The Administration also is re-examining the political and economic problems and hazards in South Viet-Nam. The stability or non-stability of government in South Viet-Nam automatically becomes a factor of rising concern for the United States if it doubles, or perhaps even eventually triples, the present American forces of more than 70,000 troops.

### McNamara, Lodge Attend

Above all, the Administration is obliged to re-explain, and redefine, to the Nation and the world, its intentions and objectives in an expanding conflict that will raise new international anxieties. That is expected to come in the form of a declaration, or message by President Johnson to Congress, justifying his call for more troops.

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara and Ambassador-designate Henry Cabot Lodge, who returned early yesterday from the South Vietnamese capital of Saigon, were major participants in morning and afternoon meetings at the White House yesterday.

On his arrival with Lodge at Andrews Air Force Base at dawn, after a five-day inspection trip to South Viet-Nam, McNamara told newsmen:

"The situation has deteriorated over the past 12 months. Viet Cong strength has increased dramatically during that period primarily because of the continuing infiltration of large numbers of soldiers—including regular army personnel from North Viet-Nam.

"That increased strength has allowed the Viet Cong to expand and intensify their attacks on the political structure of South Viet-Nam and in particular to increase their campaign of terror against the civilian population."

### 'Unacceptable Ratio'

He said Viet Cong guerrilla strength is about 165,000 compared with South Viet-Nam's government forces of about 500,000. That is a "totally unacceptable ratio," said McNamara.

But "it is important to remember that the situation there is not all black," said McNamara. He said the Viet Cong are suffering "very high casualties," the South Vietnamese are making a determined fight, and U.S. troop morale is at the "highest possible" level.

None of this information, however, was new or unexpected. Instead, there has been almost a scenario pattern to Ad-

ministration comments during the past ten days, as the expected expansion of American forces became increasingly evident. McNamara had said virtually the same things before he left Washington, and repeated them in South Viet-Nam. He used the strength figure of 165,000 Viet Cong in a press conference on June 17. He said then that it represented a ratio of only about 4 to 1 in favor of the government forces, or "considerably less than is recognized as required to effectively deal with guerrillas."

There have been occasions, however, some as recently as six weeks ago, when outgoing United States Ambassador Maxwell D. Taylor has talked about the same troop ratios in a more optimistic vein.

When the Administration has sought to portray an encouragingly picture, it has minimized the traditional theory that something like a 10-to-1 ratio is required to overcome guerrillas, on grounds that in South Viet-Nam the mobility and air power supplied by the United States materially changes the requirements.

### Recent Viet Cong Gains

There is no dispute, however, that in recent months the Communist-led Viet Cong has made important gains at

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